

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 TRSE-00 CG-00 SCEM-02

SCI-06 INT-08 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /097 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6376

UNCLAS LONDON 14626

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, ENRG, UK

SUBJECT: AVIATION FUEL AND BUNKER PROBLEMS IN THE U.S.

1. AS ONE MIGHT EXPECT IN FAST-BREAKING FUEL SITUATION, UK MEDIA HAS PICKED UP AND REPORTED STORIES OF ALLEGED FUEL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOREIGN COMPANIES IN U.S. THESE CHARGES RARELY STAND UP TO CLOSE EXAMINATION AND ARE BEST IGNORED. WE HAVE HOWEVER NOTED PERSISTENT REPORTS OF AVIATION FUELING PROBLEMS AT MIAMI. ONE VERSION SIMPLY ASSERTS FOREIGN AIRLINES (READ BOAC) NOT BEING ACCORDED SAME ACCESS TO AVIATION FUEL AS US CARRIERS (READ NATIONAL AIRLINES). MORE SOPHISTICATED VERSION CLAIMS NATIONAL LIFTING FULL LOADS BONDED FUEL AT HOUSTON WHICH ENABLES IT MERELY TO TOP-OFF TANKS AT MIAMI ON MIAMI/LONDON SERVICE THEREBY CONSERVING ITS MIAMI FUEL SUPPLY IN MANNER NOT POSSIBLE FOR FOREIGN CARRIERS.

2. WE HAVE ALSO SEEN REPORT THAT F&O LINER ARCADIA IS BEING HELD UP IN SAN FRANCISCO BECAUSE IT CANNOT GET BUNKER FUEL.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY ON ABOVE REPORTS.

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